

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 213402
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 EUR-12 AF-10 /059 R

DRAFTED BY COM/OEA/CD: RJMCGEEHAN/HB
APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT: PHBLAKE0URN
COMMERCE/OEA - JLUCCIOLA

-----081177 230846Z /21

R 222246Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, RH, SP,FR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DIVERSION OF CESSNA AIRCRAFT TO RHODESIA;
OEA/CD CASE 9A(77)-6

REF: LONDON 1901, AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. BALTIMORE SUN ARTICLE (11/22/77) ALLEGED THAT FRENCH-BUILT CESSNA AIRCRAFT SOLD TO SPANISH FISHING COMPANY IN CANARY ISLANDS WERE DIVERTED TO RHODESIAN MILITARY. CESSNA AIRCRAFT COMPANY ADVISED OEA/CD THAT REIMS AVIATION, FRENCH LICENSEE TO BUILD CESSNAS, RECEIVED SUCH ORDER. CESSNA IMPLIED ORDER NOT FILLED. COMMENTED THAT ORIGIN OF ORDER WAS SUGGESTION TO REIMS BY AMEMBASSY MADRID AIR ATTACHE VIA AMEMBASSY PARIS AIR ATTACHE.

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2. USDOC SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED FURTHER ALLEGATION THAT FOUR ADDITIONAL CESSNAS DESTINED FOR PANAMA DIVERTED TO RHODESIA IN LATE 1977. END SUMMARY.

3. CESSNA AIRCRAFT COMPANY, WICHITA, KANSAS, PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN SUBJECT INVESTIGATION. IN LETTER

REPLY TO OEA/CD INQUIRIES, CESSNA SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
R.P. BAUER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER ACCUSATIONS THAT REIMS
CESSNA AIRCRAFT MODEL 337 USED IN RHODESIA.

4. REIMS AVIATION S.A., 18 QUAI ALPHONSE LE GALLO, 92100
BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT, FRANCE, IS FORTY-NINE PERCENT OWNED
BY CESSNA AND UNDER LICENSE TO BUILD MODEL 337. MAJORITY
OF PARTS FOR AIRCRAFT ARE OF U.S. ORIGIN.

5. PIERRE CLOSTERMANN, REIMS PRESIDENT, TOLD CESSNA THAT
MARTIN VERLET MADE ABOVEMENTIONED ACCUSATION. VERLET,
COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER IN FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WAS
PRESSED BY CLOSTERMANN TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS ACCUSATION.
ACCORDING TO CLOSTERMANN, VERLET ADMITTED INABILITY TO DO
SO.

6. CESSNA COULD NOT IDENTIFY SPANISH FISHING COMPANY IN
CANARY ISLANDS, BUT IMPLIED ORDER NOT FILLED. ACCORDING
TO CESSNA, REIMS BUILT ONLY ONE MILIROLE. (MILITARY
VERSION OF MODEL 337) FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS PURCHASER.

7. BAUER COMMENTED THAT ORIGIN OF FISHING COMPANY ORDER
WAS SUGGESTION TO REIMS BY AMEMBASSY MADRID AIR ATTACHE.

8. OEA/CD PROVIDED WITH CESSNA COPY OF 12/31/75 LETTER
FROM LT. COL. E.W. MASTON, USAF, AMEMBASSY PARIS TO REIMS
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AVIATION, ATTENTION CLOSTERMANN.

9. COL. MASTON'S LETTER (AIR ATTACHE OFFICE REFERENCE NO.
5393 REL) STATED THAT HIS OFFICE RECEIVED MANY REQUESTS
FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING REIMS MILIROLE EQUIPMENT. ONE
REQUEST WAS FROM AMEMBASSY MADRID AIR ATTACHE OFFICE.
LETTER CONTINUED THAT ALL BROCHURES IN MASTON'S OFFICE
WERE SENT TO INQUIRERS. CONSEQUENTLY MASTON WAS
REQUESTING SUPPLY OF RECENT BROCHURES ON MILIROLE
AIRCRAFT.

10. AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC) 6/9/78
LETTER TO USDOC PROVIDED FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUBJECT.
ALLEGED MORE CESSNAS DIVERTED TO RHODESIA.

11. AFSC QUOTED MARCH 1978 ISSUE MILAVNEWS, BRITISH SOURCE
OF INFORMATION FOR BALTIMORE SUN ARTICLE, THAT EIGHTEEN
REIMS-CESSNA MILIROLE AIRCRAFT HAD SERIAL NUMBERS ZERO
ZERO THREE SIX THROUGH ZERO ZERO FIVE THREE. TEMPORARY
FRENCH REGISTRATION F-BXXA-XXR WAS CANCELLED IN 1976
WHEN AIRCRAFT SOLD TO SPAIN. CESSNAS THEN SURFACED IN
RHODESIA WHERE THEY WERE USED AGAINST GUERRILA FORCES.

12. AFSC ALSO QUOTED SAME MILAVNEWS ISSUE THAT ADDITIONAL
FOUR CESSNA 337'S ARRIVED IN RHODESIA IN LATE 1977.
"THEIR ORIGINAL NOMINAL DESTINATION WAS APPARENTLY PANAMA".

ACTION REQUESTED:

13. AMEMBASSIES MADRID AND PARIS ARE REQUESTED TO LATER-
ALLY COORDINATE ALL ACTION AND INFO OEA/CD.

14. SUGGESTED STARTING POINT IS RESPECTIVE AIR ATTACHE
OFFICES TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF SPANISH PARTY REQUESTING
MILIROLE INFORMATION MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARAGRAPHS
SEVEN THROUGH NINE.
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15. EMBOFF PARIS REQUESTED TO VISIT REIMS AVIATION,
OBTAIN COPIES OF INVOICES/CONTRACTS FOR PURCHASE OF AIR-
CRAFT MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO AND
DETERMINE WHETHER PURCHASER(S) FERRIED OR SHIPPED AIR-
CRAFT FROM FRANCE. IF AIRCRAFT SHIPPED, CONTACT FREIGHT
FORWARDER(S) FOR ULTIMATE DESTINATION AND DOCUMENTATION.

16. EMBOFF PARIS ALSO REQUESTED TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
FROM VERITAS CONCERNING SERIAL NOS. AND REGISTRATION
MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARAGRAPH ELEVEN.

17. EMBOFF MADRID REQUESTED TO VISIT SPANISH OWNER(S)
OF CESSNA AIRCRAFT WHOSE IDENTITY(IES) PROVIDED BY
AMEMBASSY PARIS, VERIFY PRESENCE OF AIRCRAFT BY SIGHT
INSPECTION AND OBTAIN PROOF OF PURCHASE AND SERIAL NOS.
OF AIRCRAFT.

18. EMBOFF MADRID FURTHER REQUESTED TO CONTACT SPANISH
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY TO VERIFY THAT AIRCRAFT OB-
TAINED FROM REIMS DURING TIME OF ALLEGED DIVERSION SAME
AS THOSE VIEWED.

19. EMBASSIES MADRID AND PARIS ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO IN-
QUIRE OF HOST GOVERNMENTS WHETHER THEY ARE CONDUCTING
INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED DIVERSIONS. IF
SO, REQUEST REPORTS OF INVESTIGATION IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE
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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 /024 R

66011
DRAFTED BY AF/S:RDOUTHARD:DH
APPROVED BY: AF/S:HKAISER
-----117590 260906Z /21
R 260300Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 213402 ACTION MADRID PARIS INFO
LONDON DATED AUG 22:

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 213402

EXCON

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REIMS AVIATION, FRENCH LICENSEE TO BUILD CESSNAS, RECEIVED
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SUCH ORDER. CESSNA IMPLIED ORDER NOT FILLED. COMMENTED
THAT ORIGIN OF ORDER WAS SUGGESTION TO REIMS BY AMEMBASSY
MADRID AIR ATTACHE VIA AMEMBASSY PARIS AIR ATTACHE.

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OFFICES TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF SPANISH PARTY REQUESTING MILIROLE INFORMATION MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARAGRAPHS SEVEN THROUGH NINE.

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NOTE: ORIG DIST: COME/ISO,EXCO,EUR,AF,,

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, REPORTS, SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE213402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RJMCGEEHAN/HB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780344-0617
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780836/aaaabdso.tel
Line Count: 339
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bd60635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 1901
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1656145
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED DIVERSION OF CESSNA AIRCRAFT TO RHODESIA; OEA/CD CASE 9A(77)-6
TAGS: ESTC, EAIR, RH, SP, FR
To: MADRID PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bd60635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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